

REMARKS

The drawings have been corrected as indicated by the examiner. Replacement drawing sheets are attached.

The rejection of the claims over Sasaki, et al. taken with Sterler, et al. is contested. Sterler, et al. relates to a light, which is provided with a redundant light in the event a fuse has blown. This is quite distinct from the environment of the claims, or the environment of Sasaki, et al. In Sasaki, et al. and in applicant's claimed environment, a vehicle driveline is monitored for improper operation. It is not failure of the system itself that is being monitored, but instead improper operation of the system. The Sterler, et al. patent would provide a redundant light when an air bag is failed. That is, the warning is that one cannot rely upon the air bag as it has failed. A similar warning is not necessary for the claimed structure, or the Sasaki, et al. environment. If the Sasaki, et al. clutch or transmission were broken, the vehicle would likely not move. A redundant warning of an inoperable component is not necessary in Sasaki, et al. Rather, what is being warned of is an improper operating condition. The concepts are distinct, and applicant's claims are patentable over these references.

Further, the two prior art patents are so distinct as to not properly suggest any combination. Simply, Sterler, et al. relates to an air bag status indicator, and would have no proper input into the transmission and driveline of Sasaki, et al.

For the reasons set forth above, there is no proper combination of the references, and even if they were properly combined, they would still not meet the claims.

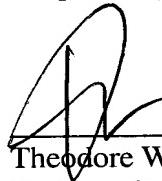
Similarly, adding the Hallenstvedt, et al. patent to reject claims 5 and 7 is also not suggested. There is no motivation to combine these references, and no benefit would be

apparent from the combination. In fact, absent applicant's disclosure, there is no statement of any benefit from taking the control steps of these claims.

Finally, claims 11-13, 16 and 17 stand rejected over Sasaki, et al. in view of Gould et al. Gould, et al. relates to a computer control. There is nothing in Gould, et al. that would suggest modifying Sasaki, et al. as proposed. The claims require a modification to a very specific control, and Gould, et al. has nothing to do with such systems, and certainly not this type of control.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejection of all claims is improper. Allowance of all claims is in order.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on this 9 day of May, 2005.



Laura Combs